



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST BATTALION, 34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
FORT JACKSON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29207



14 February 2011

Dear Family and Friends of Soldiers in 1st Battalion, 34TH Infantry Regiment (1-34TH IN REGT):

Your Soldier has arrived safely at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and is assigned to 1st Battalion 34TH Infantry Regiment, for Basic Combat Training. 1-34TH IN REGT has a long, distinguished history of service dating back to 1916 and enjoys the reputation as one of the best battalions at Fort Jackson.


As you know, Basic Combat Training is not easy. It is a challenging experience that transforms *volunteers* into trained, disciplined, physically fit and motivated *Soldiers* who espouse the Seven Army Values, understand the importance of teamwork and who are determined to complete their initial enlistment. For many Soldiers, the ten weeks with 1-34TH IN REGT will be the toughest thing they have ever accomplished in their lives. I assure you that our drill sergeants and officers, who are an absolutely first rate team of professional Soldiers, will do their best to assist in this transformation. We're honored to be your Soldier's first unit in the Army.

Your Soldier has committed themselves to the Army and we will challenge them to ensure they train to meet the Army standard. We encourage you to foster their morale with supportive mail and correspondence. In the event that an emergency arises involving an immediate Family member that requires your Soldier's presence, contact the American Red Cross at 1-877-272-7337. The Red Cross will contact the battalion and assist the Soldier in returning home on leave. Please make sure you keep this Red Cross number so you have it readily available should the need arise. We will not be able to assist you without Red Cross verification.


During Basic Combat Training, we curtail certain privileges such as the use of phones, receiving food items in the mail and visitation. While in our care, we will provide your Soldier quality meals in dining facilities. Because of this and for health reasons, we do not permit Soldiers to receive, possess, or store food.

Information for Family Day and Graduation Day

If you wish to visit your Soldier, you may do so at Fort Jackson only on Family Day and on Graduation Day. Because of the visitation restrictions, I hope you will take advantage of these two important events in your Soldier's Basic Combat Training calendar. Family Day is scheduled for April 20, 2011 where there will be an opportunity for you and your Soldier to spend the day together on the Fort Jackson Installation. Graduation is April 21, 2011 where you and your Soldier will have the opportunity to spend the day on or off post. We invite you to visit and enjoy the ceremonies on these two days as your Soldier will likely be shipped to Advanced Individual Training on the morning of April 22, 2011. Occasionally, a Soldier is delayed in graduating due to injury, sickness, or other reasons. It is critical that you verify these dates with your Soldier before making travel arrangements. I will address the details of graduation in a subsequent letter. We will post the latest information on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/134AlwaysForward> or send an email to ATZJ-C-F@conus.army.mil. Please review the attached information sheet that includes your Soldier's correct mailing address and information on contacting your Soldier's chain of command. Please remember that your Soldier has transitioned from 120th AG Reception Battalion and it will take approximately two weeks for mail to be redirected to 1-34TH IN REGT. Once again, we are thankful to have your Soldier in our battalion.


MICHAEL D. McINTOSH
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major

Always Forward!


QUINCY E. NORMAN
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

2 Enclosures:

1. Vehicle Checklist
2. Fort Jackson Map